Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council

WELSH BOARD
OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1949

Walter Ellis and Son, Printers, Caerphilly

BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ward—Maesycwmmer ..	..Councillor	Mrs. S. J. Graham
	,,	G. Phillips (*Chairman*)
	,,	T. R. Walters
	,,	J. D. Jones
Ward—Bedwas	,,	F. C. Dudden,
	,,	G. Lewis
	,,	A. J. James
	,,	C. England
Ward—Trethomas	,,	H. Ludlow
	,,	Mrs. C. Davies
	,,	W. S. Boulton
	,,	L. Vaughan
Ward—Machen	,,	E. V. Matthews
	,,	G. Beeston
	,,	E. B. James
	,,	T. J. Jones.

Officers :

Clerk..	W. Ewart Morgan
Medical Officer of Health ..	K. P. Giles, M.B., CH.B.
Surveyor and Engineer	H. Gibson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.MECH.E.
Sanitary Inspector	H. R. Sulway, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I
Additional Sanitary Inspector ..	N. G. Rhodes, M.S.I.A.,C.R.S.I.
Chief Financial Officer	R. Humphreys, A.C.I.S.
Rating Officer	F. Phipps
Treasurers	Co-operative Wholesale Socy.. Ltd., (Bankers).

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BEDWAS
July, 1950

To the Chairman and Members of the

Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following is a summarised Annual Report for the year 1949

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	6,186.339
Population (Census 1931)	9,183
Estimated Population (R.G.) 1949	8,581
Number of inhabited Houses (including Farms) 1948	2,232
Number of inhabited Houses (including Farms) 1949	2,277
Rateable Value	£29,269
Sum represented by a penny rate	£105

VARIATION IN POPULATION FIGURES.

Year 1945..	8,331
Year 1946..	8,441
Year 1947..	8,434
Year 1948..	8,448
Year 1949..	8,581

From the above figures (which are those of the Registrar General's estimated population) it can be seen that the population is increasing slightly over the period of 5 years and the increase is accentuated during the period 1948-49.

The increased housing accommodation made available during the above period seems to have had a direct effect on the increase in population figures.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

BIRTH RATE.

Live Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	149	78	71
Illegitimate	4	2	2
	153	80	73

Giving a birth-rate of 17.83 per thousand of the resident population per annum.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	18.2
Rate for England and Wales	16.7

Still-Births	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	1	1	0
	4	2	2

This gives a rate of 0.47 per thousand of the population.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	0.58
Rate for England and Wales	0.39

DEATH RATE.

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all causes	101	55	46

This gives an annual death-rate of 11.77 per thousand of the resident population.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	12.1
Rate for England and Wales	11.7

MATERNAL DEATH RATE.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	NIL
Deaths from other peurperal causes	NIL

INFANT MORTALITY.

Ages at death of CHILDREN under One Year.

Under 1 week	1
1-2 weeks	NIL
2-3 weeks	NIL
3-4 weeks	NIL
Total under One Month	1
1-3 months	2
3-6 months	NIL
6-9 months	1
9-12 months	NIL
Total under One Year	4

This gives an Infant Mortality rate of 26.00 per thousand live births.

Rate for the County of Monmouth	42.7
Rate for England and Wales	32.00

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	1	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3
Other forms of tuberculosis	0	1
Cancer of mouth, oesoph and uterus	2	0
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Cancer of breast	0	0
Cancer of all other sites	5	5
Diabetes	1	0
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	4
Heart diseases	18	16
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	0
Bronchitis	4	2
Pneumonia	1	2
Other respiratory diseases	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	0
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries	3	0
Suicide	1	1
Other violent causes	0	2
All other causes	4	6
Totals	55	46

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS :-A comparison of the rates per thousand of the population received for the year is as follows :-

	England and Wales	Bedwas and Machen
Scarlet Fever	1.63	0.58
Whooping Cough	2.39	5.7
Measles	8.95	1.2
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.12
Pneumonia	0.80	0.93
Diphtheria	0.04	0.12
Erysipelas	0.19	0.35

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1949

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	5	NIL	NIL
Whooping Cough	49	NIL	1
Measles ..	10	NIL	NIL
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	NIL	NIL
Diphtheria ..	NIL	NIL	NIL
Pneumonia ..	8	1	3
Erysipelas ..	3	NIL	NIL
TOTAL ..	77	1	4

WARD DISTRIBUTION.

Disease	Maesy-c'mmer	Bedwas	Tre-thomas	Machen	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	NIL	NIL	3	2	5
Whooping Cough ..	NIL	29	16	4	49
Measles ..	4	NIL	6	NIL	10
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	1
Pneumonia ..	NIL	1	7	NIL	8
Diphtheria ..	NIL	NIL	1	NIL	1
Erysipelas ..	NIL	1	2	NIL	3
TOTAL ..	5	31	35	6	77

Age Incidence for the Year 1949

Age Period	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65—up	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Wh'ping Cough	1	6	11	10	6	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	49
Mealses	0	2	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Acute Polio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Pneumonia	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	2	8
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Total ..	1	10	14	16	6	20	1	1	0	3	3	2	77

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION RETURNS, 1949.

Ages.	Immunisations.	Vaccinations.
0-5 years	112	21
5-15 years	6	1
Totals ..	118	22

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1949.

	New Cases				Mortality			
Age Period.	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total ..	0	4	1	1	2	3	0	1

Ward Distribution of cases notified and Deaths occurring during 1949.

	Cases Notified.				Deaths.			
Ward.	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Maesycwmmer	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bedwas	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Trethomas	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0
Machen	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	0	4	1	1	2	3	0	1

HOUSING.

No. of Houses owned by the local authority and occupied by tenants at the end of December, 1949.....555 which includes 46 houses built during the year 1949.

Ward distribution is as follows :—

Ward.	Arcon Type Bungalow	Aluminium Bungalow	Traditional House
Maesycwmmer	10	NIL	74
Bedwas	NIL	30	164
Trethomas	NIL	73	112
Machen	NIL	10	82
Total	10	113	432

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 103

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose....247

(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human occupation.....74

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Informal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling houses repaired in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers....8

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....2

(2) Number of Dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....NIL

4. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....82

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:

(a) By Owners 73

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... NIL

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH P. GILES, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December 1949.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied by the Rhymney Valley Water Board of which the Bedwas and Machen U.D.C. is a constitutent member.

The quality of the water is very satisfactory and the quantity is ample.

Six samples were taken during the year and the results in every case were satisfactory.

		Approx. Population
No. of houses supplied direct from public mains to houses	2,202	8,426
No. of houses supplied by standpipes ..	27	42
Total houses supplied from public mains	2,229	8,468
No. of Farms supplied from public mains	12	
No. of Farms with own supplies	38	

DRAINAGE.

Surface water drainage is carried off by the Rhymney river and its confluents and are free from sewage contamination as far as this area is concerned.

SEWERAGE.

The main trunk sewer of the Rhymney Valley sewerage Board follows approximately the course of the river throughout the area and receives the piped sewage effluent from the whole of the district.

10 pail closets and 6 houses with cesspool drainage still exist at points where it is impossible to connect with the sewerage system.

RAG FLOCK ACT.

There is no Rag Flock manufactured, used or sold in the area.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Formal sampling of all foods and drugs is administered by the Monmouthshire County Council.

All premises where food is manufactured, stored or deposited for purposes of sale are inspected under Section 13 of the above Act.

RODENT DISINFESTATION.

The Council employs one full time Rodent Operator on Rats and Mice Destruction. Two Maintenance Treatments were carried out in the sewers and inspection chambers during the year.

A summary of the work carried out during the year is as follows :

Sewer Maintenance Treatments.

No. of sewer manholes and Inspection chambers baited.. ..	2,042
No. of sewer manholes and Inspection chambers Poisoned baits	602
No. of dead rats picked up and disposed of	19
Estimated kill from poison takes..	800

Other surface treatments.

All types of premises and lands treated..	103
No. of points baited	898
No. of points poisoned	842
No. of bodies recovered	232

The area is constantly being systematically inspected for infestations or re-infestations and a really worth while job is being done with the results obtained, having regard to the potentialities of the rat as a menace to public health.

The methods of Rats and mice extermination are those advocated by the Rodent Disinfestation Department of The Ministry of Agriculture and are strictly adhered to.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Six premises were treated for infestation by bed-bugs and the usual service and advice was given and insecticides issued in a cases brought to the notice of the health department.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATIONS.

The premises were visited in all cases where notifications of infectious diseases made these visits necessary and disinfection of rooms and premises carried out and practical advice given to prevent the spread of infection.

No. of visits made for the above purpose..	32
No. of terminal disinfection of premises..	14

SWIMMING BATHS.

One privately owned swimming bath exists in the Maesycwmmer Ward which is open to the public. The Satisfactory condition of the water is ensured by the use of a Filtration plant, and Chlorination plant.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Premises were visited where the occurrence of Notifiable Infectious Disease occurred.

Disinfectants and where necessary terminal disinfection of rooms etc., were carried out.

Number of visits made 23
Houses disinfected 21

MILK PRODUCTION SUPERVISION.

On the 1st October, 1949, the supervision of Raw Milk production was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and now Local Authorities are only concerned with the supervision of the distribution of milk after leaving the dairy farms also the premises of milk distributors who are not actual producers.

During the year 65 samples of milk were taken 18 of which were unsatisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up and the persons concerned were informed and all advice and help given to improve methods employed in the milk production and distribution.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Maesycwmmer slaughterhouse and depot situated in the Maesycwmmer Ward provides the meat supply to four local authority areas with a population of approximately 90,000 to 100,000. All animals slaughtered on the premises are carefully inspected after slaughter by a full time Meat Inspector directly under the control of Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council. Conditions of the premises have not changed since the last Annual Report and the following is the summary of the inspections carried out during the year :—

Total number of animals slaughtered 20,215
Approximate weight of Meat and Offals condemed, 26 tons, 10½ cwts.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed ..	1,788	903	428	17,041	55
Number Inspected ..	1,788	903	428	17,041	55
All diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole Carcases condemned ..	1	1	1	15	NIL
Carcases of which some part or organ condemned	846	584	1	1,345	2
Percentage of number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	47.37	64.67	0.21	7.89	3.64

Carcases etc. condemned affected with TUBERCULOSIS.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Whole carcases Condemned	2	18	1	NIL	NIL
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	165	283	1	NIL	1
Percentage of number affected with Tuberculosis	9.24	31.34	0.21	NIL	1.82

SCAVENGING.

The whole area is adequately served by two Shelvoke and Drewry Frieghters and an excellent collection of domestic refuse is carried out by direct labour.

SCHOOLS.

Plans are projected for the building of new Primary Schools in the Bedwas Ward directly circumstances permit by the County Education Authority which will be of extreme benefit to the children who have now to attend at the present buildings.

SHOPS ACTS.

No action was necessitated with regard to the Shops Act, 1934 relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation.

FOODSTUFFS SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED.

1½ cwts. of Butter.....rancid
42 tins of various foods.....Blown, leakers or damaged
23 lbs. of bacon.....bone-taint and decomposition
1 stone of wet fish.....decomposition
3 cwts. potatoes.....decomposed.

SUMMARY OF WORK UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

	No. on Register	Inspections
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	21
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	9

Only two cases for lack of cleanliness were found and these were remedied without the service of any notices.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REPAIRS, ETC.

Routine inspections, visits and re-visits	798
Nuisances abated without service of Notices	376
Preliminary notices and letters written	532
House drainage defects remedied	19
Houses or part houses cemented	14
Houses disinfected	21
Houses cleansed and fumigated	6
Paved areas repaired	3
Broken closet pans replaced	13
Flushing cisterns repaired or replaced	28
Choked drains cleansed	23
Refuse accumulations removed	15
Kitchen sinks. waste pipes and gulleys installed or repaired	22
Eaves, gutters, downpipes, weatherboards etc.	118
Milk samples taken and delivered	65

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. R. SULWAY,

Sanitary Inspector.